

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

OFFICE: Battle Mountain District/Mount Lewis Field Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-B010-2016-0027-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: NVN-067716 (16A-1)

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: McCoy Cove Exploration Project, Plan of Operations Amendment/Reclamation Plan Update & Reclamation Cost Estimate Update

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The revised Project area is located in all or portions of: Township 27 North, Range 42 East, Sections 1 through 3, Township 28 North, Range 42 East, Sections 1 through 5, 8 through 29, and 34 through 36; Township 29 North, Range 42 East, Sections 1 through 3, 10 through 12, 13 through 16, and 21 through 36, Township 30 North, Range 42 East, Sections 25 through 27 and 34 through 36; Township 27 North, Range 43 East, Sections 4 through 6; Township 28 North, Range 43 East, Sections 4 through 9, 16 through 21, 28 through 30, and 32 through 33; Township 29 North, Range 43 East, Sections 6 through 7, 17 through 20, and 29 through 33; and, Township 30 North, Range 43 East, Section 30, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M), Lander County, Nevada.

APPLICANT (if any): Au-Reka Gold Corporation (ARG)

Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

ARG submitted an Amendment to the McCoy Cove Plan of Exploration (Amendment) to expand exploration to include sonic drilling within the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) and in three inactive heap leach piles (LP#1, LP #2 and LP #3). In addition, ARG requests closure of the Windy Point Notice (NVN- 086622), which is within the boundary of the Mc Coy Cove Exploration.

A. Land Use Plan (LIP) Conformance

LUP Name	NV-Shoshone-Eureka RMP	Date Approved:	February 26, 1986
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Lander County Revised Policy Plan for Federally Administered Lands	Date Approved:	July 2005
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LUP Name	Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Great Basin Region, Including Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Idaho and Southwestern Montana,	Date Approved:	September, 2015
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Nevada and Northeastern
California, Oregon and Utah

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision.

Page 29 of Shoshone-Eureka Resource Management Plan Record of Decision, as amended, states:

Minerals-Objectives:

1. Make available and encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs consistent with national objectives for an adequate supply of minerals.
2. Assure that mineral exploration, development, and extraction are carried out in such a way as to minimize environmental and other resource damage and to provide, where legally possible, for rehabilitation of lands.
3. Develop detailed mineral resource data in areas where different resources conflict so that informed decisions can be made that result in optimum use of the lands.

Management Decisions- Locatable Minerals:

All public lands in the planning areas will be open for mining and prospecting unless withdrawn or restricted from mineral entry.

Also:

The Proposed Action is consistent with Section XI of the Lander County Revised Policy Plan for Federally Administered Lands- July 2005 (Lander County 2005), which sets forth the policy to "...promote the expansion of mining operations and areas...". This policy also states that mine site and exploration reclamation standards should be consistent with the best possible post-mine use for each specific area and that specific standards should be developed for each property.

The Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Greater Basin Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse sub-regions of Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah (ARMPA), detail the Greater Sage Grouse habitat management plan for Nevada. The Proposed Action falls partially or completely within General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA) or Other Habitat Management Areas (OHMA). In order to process this Proposed Action, the Mount Lewis Field Office requires that the intended disturbance area and vicinity be analyzed by the BLM's Nevada State Office and by the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife per 43 CFR 3809.401(c), the 2015 ROD and the 2015 ARMPA, subject to valid and existing rights and applicable law. The Proposed Action is consistent with these requirements.

B. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

1. McCoy Cove Mine, Claimblock Exploration Program Environmental Assessment (EA) (NV-64-EA95-10) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), May, 1995.
2. Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Greater Basin Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse sub-regions of Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah dated September 2015

C. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. **Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action is similar to the NEPA documents for this project and listed above. The Project is in the same analysis area and location. The Project area is being implemented on pre-existing disturbance on areas of valid and existing rights. The total surface disturbance has not changed from that covered in the EA.

2. **Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The ranges of alternatives analyzed in the EA (May, 1995) are appropriate with respect to the new proposed action and given current environmental concerns, intents, and resource values. The existing range of alternatives remains adequate for the analysis. There will be no increase in the amount of approved disturbance.

3. **Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

No new information or circumstances have come to light that would invalidate the existing analyses as presented in the EA.

4. **Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

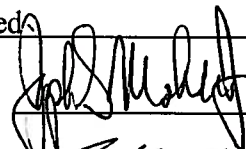
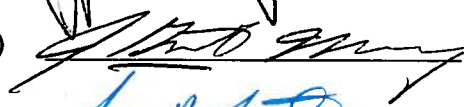
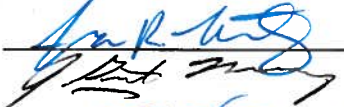

The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from the implementation of the new proposed action are almost identical to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The current NEPA documents have covered the situation adequately.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

No further public input will be required, because no impacts to external entities are required.

D. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

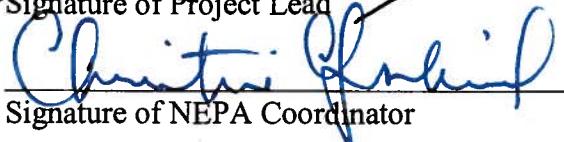
Name and Title	Resource/Agency Represented	Signature
Joseph S. Moskiewicz, Jr.	Minerals AFM	
J. Gant Massey, Ph.D.	Renewable AFM (Acting)	
Juan Martinez /J. Gant Massey Ph.D.	Wildlife Biologist	
Justin DeMaio	Archaeologist	

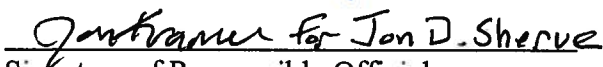
Note: refer to the EIS for complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion (If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)

☐ Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.


Signature of Project Lead

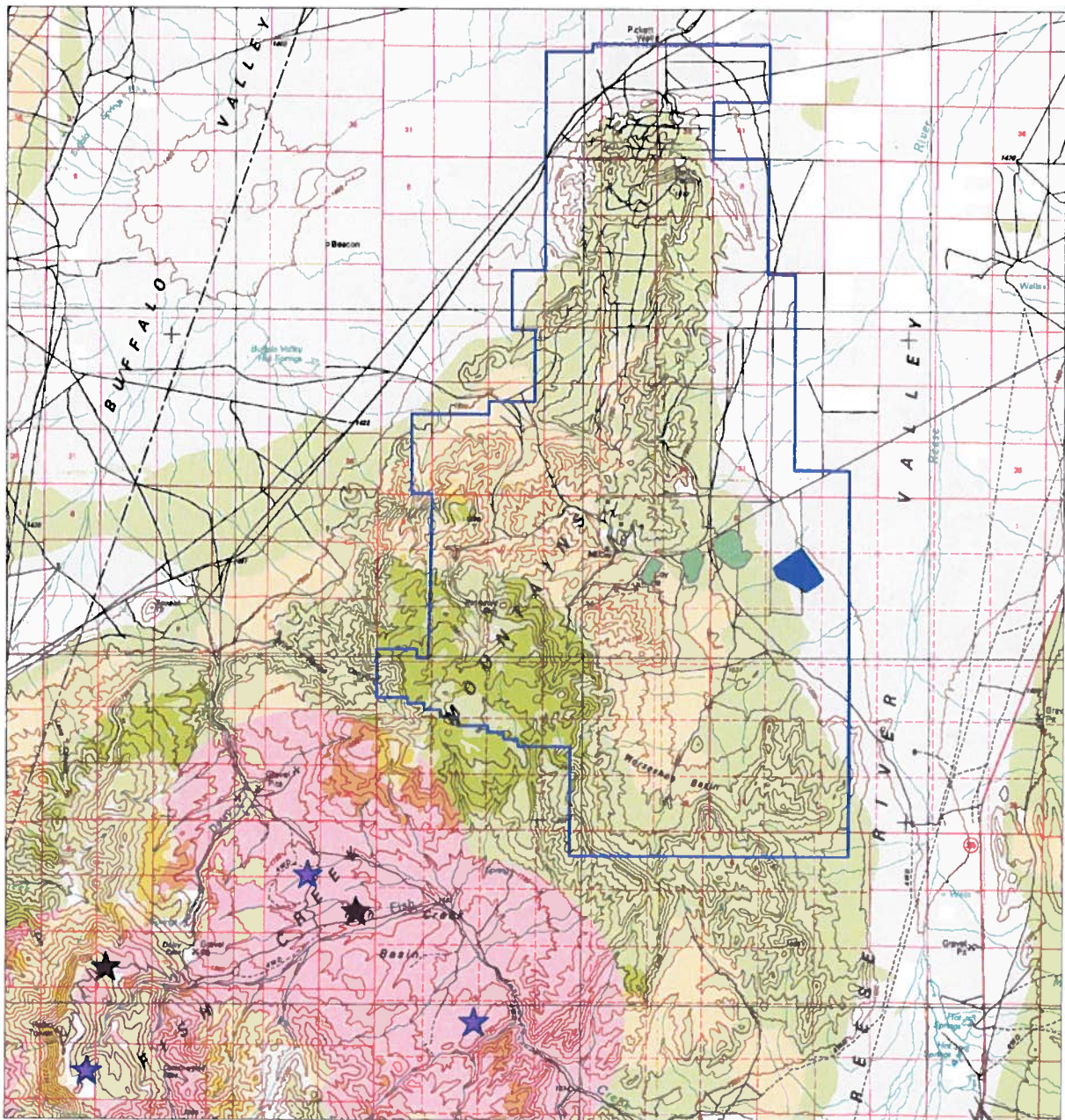

Signature of NEPA Coordinator


Signature of Responsible Official:

4.1.16
Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

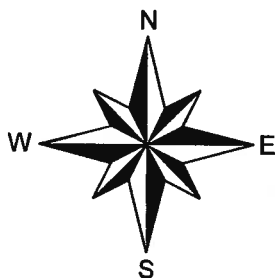
Aureka Gold - McCoy Cove Exploration Project GRSG Habitat Classifications 2-2016



Legend

-
- ☆ Active
- ☆ Historic
- ☆ Inactive
- ☆ Pending
- ☆ Unknown
- McCoy Cove_PoO
- pad 1-3
- Tailings Storage Facility
- Priority Habitat Management Area
- Other Habitat Management Area
- General Habitat Management Area
- Non-Habitat

1 0.5 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles



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